



Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Draft Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (RP-PEIS) for Restoration Resulting from the Kalamazoo River Natural Resources Damage Assessment.

This RP-PEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA as well as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), provide a programmatic-level environmental analysis to support the Kalamazoo River Natural Resource Trustees' (Trustees) proposed restoration program. The Trustees seek damages from potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to restore, rehabilitate, replace or acquire the equivalent of injured natural resources and services. The Draft RP-PEIS identifies a preferred restoration approach to guide the development and selection of compensatory restoration projects under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process, for injuries to natural resources resulting from the release of hazardous substances in the Kalamazoo River, MI.

The programmatic analysis in the Draft RP-PEIS takes a broad look at issues and programmatic-level alternatives, and provides guidance for future restoration activities to be carried out by, or conducted under the oversight of, the Trustees. Additionally, the Trustees intend to use this document to approve future site-specific actions, including the two specific restoration projects proposed in this document, so long as the activity proposed is within the range of alternatives and scope of potential environmental consequences. Specific impacts of a given project would be further evaluated in subsequent tiered National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluations, as necessary.

The Trustees are releasing the draft RP/PEIS to the public as part of the CERCLA and NEPA process, and issuing a required notice in the Federal Register. The NOAA and USFWS are joint federal leads for preparing the RP/PEIS, and the responsible officials are identified below.

**NOAA RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:**

Frederick C. Sutter  
Director, Office of Habitat Conservation  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910



USFWS RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Charles Wooley  
Deputy Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
5600 American Blvd., West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 455437-1458

Submitting Comments:

**Written comments for the Trustees to consider should be sent to** Lisa Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, East Lansing Field Office, 2651 Coolidge Road East Lansing, MI 48823. Comments may also be submitted electronically to **kzoorivernrda@fws.gov**, with “Kalamazoo River RP/PEIS” in the subject line. Written comments on the draft RP-PEIS should be sent by no later than October 19, 2015.

For further information or questions please contact either Lisa Williams, USFWS, by email at [lisa\\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:lisa_williams@fws.gov) or by phone at (517) 351-8324, or Julie Sims, NOAA Restoration Center either by email at [julie.simms@noaa.gov](mailto:julie.simms@noaa.gov) or by US mail at 4840 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48108.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Montanio  
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure